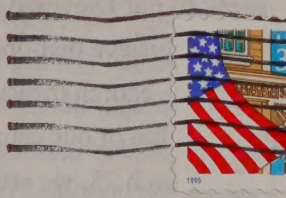
PROCESSED
MAR 2 6 1998
GTU LIBRARY

Friendship 友誼

THE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER OF THE TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
E-mail:skhtpe@ms12.hinet.net
Mar.1998

CONTENTS

THE BISHOP'S LETTER
GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING
"COTTAGE TO CATHEDRAL" REVIEW
DIOCESAN NEWS
SERMON FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
ST. JAMES, TAICHUNG
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
INVESTITURE OF PRESIDING BISHOP



TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE
1-105-7 HANGCHOW S. ROAD
TAIPEI TAIWAN R.O.C.

Flora Lamson Hewlett Library
Graduate Theological Union
2400 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
U.S.A.

VIA AIR MAIL
PRINTED MATTER

94709-1212 37

BISHOP'S LETTER

This is the year of the tiger. People like to greet each other with a Chinese saying, "Fu fu sheng fong" which means life has been empowered and you have become very powerful in making decisions and doing business. It also carries the same implication as "Ru Hu Tien Yi - like a tiger that has been given wings." Anyway I wish you will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's mission in your life. And I also wish that the church will be empowered by the Holy Spirit, too. It is a year of Holy Spirit. We need to focus more on Holy Spirit this year. Thanks to God, a very qualified speaker, Fr. Joseph Lee, will speak to our Diocesan synod on the Holy Spirit. I believe that only the Holy spirit can move the church forward by renewing the spiritual life of our church members.

March 25, we are going to give thanks to God and to celebrate the tenth anniversary of my being consecrated as the Bishop of Taiwan. Time flies. A decade has already gone. In fact, it was a long time. When I was consecrated, a friend was unsure how to greet me - with congratulations or condolences. Bishop Pong, my predecessor, was always joking to say that Bishop is a killing job. However, I am grateful to God that I'm still all right after ten years of being bishop of this diocese. I'm the first Taiwanese bishop and the first bishop to serve this diocese more than 10 years. To celebrate is not to glorify a person, but offer a chance to thanksgiving to Almighty God and my dear colleagues and brothers and sisters in this diocese for their wonderful support and prayers. The role of ECUSA [the Episcopal of the United States of America] and former Presiding Bishop Browning cannot be over-emphasized. To them I am also deeply grateful.

And it also offers us a good chance for reflection. First of all, I must confess that I am an undeserved servant of God. Just like Gideon when God called him to save Israel out of the Midianites' hand, he replied, "My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." I am a country boy and from a family of poor peasants. I do not deserve such an honor. And also like St. Paul, who publicly testified, "For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle...".I am the first convert in my family. What St. Paul mentioned in Timothy 3:6 "An overseer must not be a recent convert," is always on my mind.

In my last ten years my focus is to encourage people to participate and to mobilize the people of God in this church..

I prefer concensus through discussion, even argument, which will make issues more clear. Therefore we transformed the advisory committee to a standing committee. I gave up the chair of Holy Commission to others. I also intend to give the chair of the finance committee to others. I strongly believe that theological education is vital to church development. Good theological education will upgrade the quality of our members in spirituality. Therefore every effort to carry on our theological education program will be made. Christian education is also my focus. In the last ten years, we have published 10 books, mainly on Anglicanism. We hope to help our people know who they are as Anglicans. We also adopt deaneries in the diocese to encourage more participation and cooperation in the region.

In ecumenical affairs, I'm very fortunate to have been able to help in the formation of NCCT, and to lead the ecumenical team to China in 1991. I'm also honored to be the treasurer of CCEA for two terms [8years], and I was very privileged to attend the inauguration services for the for the formation of the Provinces of Korea and South East Asia and, hopefully, will attend that of Hong Kong this year.

We have had a real breakthrough on theological training for full time seminarians We are very much grateful to the Catholic Church for allowing us to send our seminarians to Fu Ren University Theological College for training. No doubt, it is a very vivid testimony to Christian unity.

Of course there have been disappointments. Church membership in the last ten years has remained the same. I have had difficulty to switch the church from maintenance to mission orientation. I have only ordained 4 deacons and 4 priests so far. We began to have full time seminarians only three years ago. Because of the shortage of clergy, our deployment is not very efficient and adequate.

Looking forward to the future, I will continue to implement participation and team ministry, to focus more on youth and senior citizens work, and especially in stewardship for we still rely too heavily on the income from our kindergartens. Of course the most encouraging thing is to build St. Timothy's Church on the location of St. Paul's Clinic. It is the first church building to be built using our own resources. The building will be an eight floor high rise building which will provide space for Sunday worship, Christian education, social work/outreach and may also provide a place for the 2nd diocesan center and Bishop's office as well as residence in the South. St. Timothy's is a Taiwanese speaking congregation. The members of this congregation are very

enthusiastic in evangelism. This new church building will be a significant symbol of this diocese and a milestone to enter the twenty first century.

Even though the Lambeth Conference, which will be held this year from July 18 - August 8 in England, is too long and too far, I am very fortunate to be able to attend twice in my Episcopacy. This coming one will be my second and last. The experience of attending Lambeth is vital to a bishop in the Anglican community. After attending the Lambeth Conference, I began to realize how much a privilege it is to be a member of this world family.

Best regards,

John Chien

GOOD FRIDAY OFFERING

This offering is collected annually for the benefit of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Throughout the wars and crises of the Middle East the Episcopal Curch in Jerusalem and the Middle East remains one voice of conciliation reinforced by its ministries of care and compassion for the displaced and dispossessed.

You are asked to be especially generous with this offering and in your prayers for those who minister and those who so need their ministrations in Jerusalem.

"COTTAGE TO CATHEDRAL"

by

Richard T. Corsa

This narrative history of the Episcopal Church in Taiwan begins with Dick Corsa's memories of the Chinese Communist takeover of the mission school in Soochow where he worked as a missionary teacher. It takes us to Taiwan where the mainland Chinese practiced their Anglican faith illegally in cottages and bit by bit with worldwide help built a viable, independent, Church dedicated gratefully to the glory of God and to continuing His work on earth.

I found myself spellbound at this account, both very personal and very well researched, as Col. Corsa brings us through the development stages, the acquisition stages, and each successive bishop until the consecration of our own Bishop John as the first Taiwanese Bishop of Taiwan.

Although the book is very short [I found myself wanting him to expand every chapter], Corsa nicely develops the characters of many of the people who played key roles in this epic saga. I learned a great deal about many people I have been privileged to meet, and if you receive Friendship, you almost certainly will also know them. His evocative anecdotes about people I will never meet, such as Reverend Morse and Madam Chiang Kai Chek, bring them vividly to life.

Not only does he illuminate the Taiwan process but he does a wonderful job of showing the inter-Asian religious ties and commitments and the sadly lost ministry of Japanese Episcopalians in the years before WWII.

For any Episcopalian, this is a great read and a fascinating way to fill in this niche of contemporary church history. Highly Recommended.

Elizabeth Green

DIOCESAN NEWS

February 26

Dr. Rev. David Scott, professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, arrived here at will lecture at Fuzen Theological College on" The Dialogue between the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Church" and also at our Trinity Center on "Anglican Ethics". He will stay in Taiwan for one month. He is on his sabbatical.

February 26

Bishop Chien and Chancellor H. M. Ma attended the reception at the Grand Hotel to welcome Cardinal Sun on behalf of our church and the National Council of Churches of Taiwan.

February 28

Bishop Chien and Dr. David Scott attend the Thanksgiving Service held for Cardinal Sun at Fuzen University.

March 3 - April 7

Rev. Jerry William Drino, Director of Intercultural Ministry Development of Province VIII of the American Episcopal Church will visit this diocese, and his itinery will be as follows:

3 April AM - he will do training in Bible study related to evangelism, as well as ordained and lay ministry development.

5April 8:30 AM preach to the English congregation at St. John's Cathedral

10:30 AM Preach to the Chinese congregation at Good Shepherd

6 April - Training of lay and clergy leadership and strategic planning and redevelopment to the delegates of the Northern Deanery. We also welcome our church members to join us at Trinity Church at Keelung.

March 6

An Ecumenical World Day of Prayer was held at St. John's Cathedral hosted by the Salvation Army

March 13- 15

Diocesan Retreat and synod will be held at Catholic Manresa House in Chunghua. The conductor for the retreat will be Fr. Joseph Lee. His topic will be talking to the Holy Spirit in the year of the Holy Spirit. Sub-topics will be 1] The Holy Spirit in history, 2] the experience of the Holy Spirit, and 3] How to experience the work of the Holy Spirit. In addition to delegates to the synod, the diocese will encourage observers to take part in the whole process. You are invited!

March 25

Tenth Anniversary of Bishop Chien's Consecration as the Bishop of Taiwan

5:00 - 6:30PM Reception and exhibition at the St. John's Cathedral Parish Hall

6:30 PM Thanking service at St. John's Cathedral

Publication of two books - Dick Corsa's "Cottage to Cathedral - a Narrative of the Taiwan Episcopal Church", and John Chien's 'The Past Decade: 1988-1998"

April 7 - 14

Rev. Dr. Peter Leung, Regional Director of South and East Asia of CMS [Church Missionary Society] will visit. He is an old friend of this diocese and through him St. James Church has benefited greatly from his sending of personnel to the diocese.

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL CENTER

Will offer three courses this spring term, Anglican Ethics by Dr. Rev. David Scott in Taipei, Biblical Geology by Mr. Kao in Taipei and Biological Ethics by Rev. Dr. Michael Tai in Taichung

SERMON FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

On January 18, 1998, for the first time in Taipei, most of the English speaking congregations gathered for a celebration of worship at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The sermon was preached by the English chaplain, the Rev. Graham Doyle.

"I have a dream", said Martin Luther King, Jr., on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, as he spoke to a huge gathering about freedom and justice in the USA. He went on to say, "When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at Last!"

Many people have dreamed dreams, and the great charismatic leader, Martin Luther King, Jr., lived out his dream to the full finally giving his own life as a result of that dream. His dream was based on his Christian understanding of the unity of humanity that we all share. This dream and vision was the original one from the Creation. From page one and story one of our Bible the truth is told that we were all made human beings in the image of God and that it was good. Since then man and woman have done many things to dent that truth and blur the image of God that we all have. Since the beginning in our time and space people have invented differences that have denied our unity and humanness through societies that see the other as an alien or foreigner, in some way different, and therefore not really the way a human ought to be. All this phoniness such as nationalism is our invention and every time we depend upon it , we divide people into the them and the us.

The Bible spends many of its pages explaining how this has led to tragedy after tragedy causing wars , conflicts, and breakdowns in families, communities, societies, and our world in general. The Bibles outlines a remedy and yet this was often rejected as people preferred disunity. Also history records that Christians themselves are not without blame. It catalogues a list of abuse and violence that has been perpetrated against others.

Whereas God's revelation and purpose in creation is for unity, what is it about humans that we always seem to want to divide rather than unite?

The uniqueness of Jesus' own life was that as a Jew he did believe and trust in the truths of those first covenants God made with all people. He believed that all

people were neighbors and that there were no differences such as race, gender, nationality, class or profession that were important. That indeed is revealed in the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan, the foreigner, the outsider, the one with different religion and accent, that bush hillbilly from the countryside, he alone realized the unity that all peoples share as a gift from God. He had eternal life already.

As Christians we have a wonderful unity given to us by God and exampled through Christ. The way of loving care that is void of hatred for the other, the way Christ commends to everyone to reconcile himself with himself and others, and with God himself. That is the way to realize the overwhelming love of God is active and alive and available. To experience it whenever we avoid hate and see the other person with the image of God within, is to realize out unity. In Christ we have this. Would that we practiced it more openly and effectively, and more corporately, especially among those who are without this conviction. The dream becomes a reality if we live it. Christ's ministry of teaching and living showed that the dream is true and real - that humans have a unity in Christ.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Lent:

Every Wednesday in Lent except Holy Week, Eucharist and Study 8PM.

Holy Week: April 5-12

Palm Sunday - 9AM Sung Eucharist and procession of Palms, Evening- Combined English services; Monday-Wednesday 7:30AM Eucharist; Maundy Thursday - 8PM Combined Dinner - English congregation to provide and serve the lamb; Good Friday 12Noon - Cathedral Service, 8PM Combined Service: Holy Saturday 8PM Combined Service.

Fellowship Discussion Evening

T he 3rd Thursday evening at 6:30 PM in members' homes

Good Shepherd is largely an ex-patriotic English speaking congregation, so a large turnover is expected. It is nonetheless sad to have our family members move to other places. To encourage continued friendship and mutual support among us, Friendship offers current addresses for those who move away.

1] Susan , Tony and Laura Browne
13 Roscoe Terrace
Wadestown
Wellington NZ

2] Corinth Milikin
cmilikin@jcpenney.com

4] Compton Tothill
comp@compt.pl.net

3] Warwick and Julia Mayall
77 Priors Grange
Pittington, Durham DH6
1DF,ENGLAND
wmayall@classic.msn.com

ST. JAMES, TAICHUNG

Recently, we have achieved 100% increase in attendance at the English language services, against all odds, and in the face of obstacles and discouragement, we are now averaging 17 people at the services. New people are coming, but not yet consistently. If everyone came at the same time, we would have a viable congregation. We now have the Eucharist every Sunday morning as opposed to every other week.

The Church's mission is out in the world, so I use every opportunity to engage with organizations in Taichung. I enjoy this and am making many friends here and this outreach is bearing fruit, in terms of a few new people. It is especially good to see Chinese people joining us as this greatly enriches our fellowship.

Following our service, we have refreshments and discussion. We are beginning a Lenten Course with videos for this season. After the discussion those who can continue our informal fellowship over lunch at nearby restaurants.

Despite our small numbers, we are rich in congregational resources. We have three licensed lay readers - Phillip Gibson, Russell Morano, and Jerry Liang. We also have two accomplished musicians, Ruth Jobes and Philip Gibson. Ruth teaches music at Morrison Academy but, sadly, retires next year. After 30-odd years in Taiwan, she will return to the USA. St. James will miss her greatly.

I conduct an English language Bible study every Tuesday evening in the Counseling Center. The current topic is St. Mark's Gospel. Every Wednesday evening I travel to Taiping to teach an English conversation class, which Mary Craighill used to teach. The music teacher at the kindergarten generously lends me her car to get there and back. I like the class, half of whom work at Ming Cycle factory in Taiping. I have visited their plant, and, recently, was privileged to attend their 10th anniversary celebration dinner, which was a

great occasion.

I have been trying to learn Chinese at TLI and practicing on some of the kindergarten teachers, but as TLI have increased their fees, I am unable to afford to continue to study there.

Life is not dull, as new challenges are being faced all the time, and we are looking forward to sharing the Palm Sunday service and to Celebrating the Resurrection on Easter with the Chinese congregation.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Stepehn Harrop

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

In the life of the church, there is no mre glorious and holy occasion than that of the ceremony of the sacrament of baptism. On March 8, Dean Samuel Lin and the English congregation will welcome Harrison Okwudilichukwu Eze, Jr. into the family of God.

His mother, Anne Eze, often serves as a lay reader at the cathedral. Although his parents are natives of Nigeria, his father, Harry, Sr., studied in Taiwan and began his career here with a Chinese accounting firm. For many years now his business has required his presence in Taiwan regularly.

The renovation of the St. John's properties is complete. The parish hall has been enlarged to meet the community needs of both the English and Chinese congregations. The English congregation celebrated the birthdays of those members born in January and February on February 23. After having no meeting place for approximately two onths, it was delightful to have such a bright, cheerful, comfortable new space. Classrooms and offices in the cathedral school building are freshly painted and refurbished. Bishop Kennedy Hall has also been completely renovated. There are living quarters for the dean's family on the first floor, a very large meeting on two, chapel and lecture rooms on three, and housing space on four for visitors or additional clergy.

Not all the cathedral news is so positive. On Christmas Eve, one of the most sacred and joyous services of the church year, the police raided the cathedral and arrested three Filipino members of the congregation despite efforts of the Chinese congregation to protect them. On February 8, they again

invaded the church space and arrested three Filipinos. Of the group arrested, some were in Taiwan legally and were later released. In most countries of the free world, churches are considered places of sanctuary. No one should be subject to this kind of harassment on church property nor should anyone be harassed in the process of entering or leaving a place of worship. If police believe a person is here illegally they should go to their place of employment, NOT their place of worship.

EWG

INVESTITURE OF PRESIDING BISHOP GRISWOLD AN HISTORIC EVENT

In a sweeping liturgy that combined soaring choral music, the heady rhythms of Native American drums and African-American spirituals, with the spectacle and color of stately processionals, Frank Tracy Griswold of Chicago was invested as the 25th presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church at Washington National Cathedral January 10.

After an extensive musical prelude, almost 200 bishops of the church were joined by ecumenical guests and, for the first time, representatives of Islam and Judaism, in processions that flowed into the cathedral from all directions. Our own Bishop Chien was one of the most impressive. Banners and colored streamers captured the festive air of the occasion, as nearly 4,000 participants filled the cathedral to inaugurate a new season of leadership in the church.

Participants in the cathedral were joined by thousands of others at more than 200 downlink sites across the country. They watched by live satellite television broadcast and shared communion and the sprinkling of holy water locally. A simultaneous audio feed over worldwide Internet extended the audience internationally.

Far from the gothic glories of the cathedral, Griswold preached the Sunday sermon at St. Philips the Evangelist in one of the poorest areas of the city.

Bishop John and Grace Chien attended the investiture and the Province VIII Bishops Meeting. The Bishop preached at St. Francis Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where his former seminary friend, Bob Friend is rector. They also visited Virginia Theological Seminary where Bishop Chien studied.

LAMBETH AND THE DIOCESE OF TAIWAN

The following are the responses of the Diocese of Taiwan to a questionnaire about the themes of Lambeth 1998. The themes are 1] Called to Full Humanity, 2]Call to live and proclaim the Good News, 3]Called to be faithful in a plural world, and 4] Called to be One.

CALLED TO FULL HUMANITY

1]Human Dignity, rights and responsibilities, and the risk of excessive individualism

1]Human beings want authority without responsibility. 2]Only by humbling oneself can one enter into dialogue with others. 3]Because the strong oppress the weak, the dignity and rights of humanity are destroyed. 4]To build up a church that is whole, God infuses it with his Spirit.5]Both individually and corporately, the whole of humanity is controlled by sin. 6]The political and economic influences underlying modern society work to dent to people their essential human dignity.. The Church should make every effort to help restore human dignity. 7]Secularism holds that human dignity resides in money and power, i.e. because we hold Taiwanese passports, foreign governments dent our identity as humans. True human dignity is in being the People of God in his Kingdom.

2]Racism, tribalism, ethnicity and nationalism - positive and negative elements

1]Chinese are divided by race, tribe and clan, leading to mutual conflict. When people grow in the image of God, they transcend these barriers through the sharing of love. 2]The lack of harmony is the result of selfishness, sinfullness and egocentrism. 3]The primary cause of trouble is racism taking from us the possibility of becoming whole people. 4] The secondary cause is the struggle for political gain. 5] Modern technology has created a pressure on the labor market creating racial tensions and unemployment. 6] The spirit of humanitarianism is gradually losing its power. The one hope is in the methods of the Kingdom of God.

3]The family: it's strengths and the causes of breakdown.

The strength of family ties are breaking down under the pressures of industrial society and the estrangement of feeling between parents and children.

5]Human sexuality

No response

6]International debt; the gap between rich and poor both within and between nations

No response

7]Integrity and corruption in business and public life

No response

The effect of mass communication{TV} and the concentration of ownership

No response